

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-13

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O R 011710Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6156
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: CROSLAND REMARKS ON RHODESIA

FOLLOWING IS LONDON TIMES OCTOBER 1 REPORT ON FOREIGN
SECRETARY CROSLAND'S COMMENTS ON RHODESIA AT THE LABOR
PARTY CONFERENCE.

QUOTE

A STARK DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSEQUENCES THAT COULD
RESULT FROM THE FAILURE OF THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT
INITIATIVE WAS GIVEN BY MR. CROSLAND, SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, DURING A
DEBATE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

"WE COULD BE FACED WITH THE GROTESQUELY HORRIBLE
COMBINATION OF RACIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE
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AND GLOBAL CONFLICT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST" HE SAID.

BUT IF THE INITIATIVE SUCCEEDED, THE PRIZE WOULD BE A FREE, PROSPEROUS AND MULTI-RACIAL ZIMBABWE. HE REPEATED THE PLEDGE THAT SANCTIONS WOULD NOT BE LIFTED UNTIL AND UNLESS A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS AGREED BY ALL THE PARTIES ON THE SPOT. "IAN SMITH, I THINK, HAS SEEN THE WRITING ON THE WALL."

HE ADDED THAT HE HAD ALREADY IMPLEMENTED ONE OF THE NEC'S PROPOSALS IN AGREEING TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE, AS THE AFRICANS HAD ASKED, AND IN AGREEING TO PROVIDE A CHAIRMAN; HE HAD INVITED MR. IVOR RICHARD TO DO THE JOB.

"WE ALL KNOW OF THE FRUSTRATING HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH MR. SMITH, AND THE INCESSANT TWISTS AND TURNS. IN THE LIGHT OF THAT, THERE ARE NATURAL DOUBTS AND FEARS. I CANNOT POSSIBLY SAY AT THIS MOMENT WHAT WILL BE THE EXACT FORM OF ANY EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT BUT TWO THINGS ARE CRYSTAL CLEAR. THERE CAN BE NO GOING BACK ON THE DECLARATION OF MARCH 22 AND SANCTIONS WILL NOT BE LIFTED UNTIL AND UNLESS A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AGREED, AGREED BY ALL PARTIES ON THE SPOT, AND THAT INCLUDES THE AFRICAN PRESIDENTS AND THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS."

THE CONFERENCE ACCEPTED THE NEC EMERGENCY STATEMENT ON RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH DESCRIBED MR. IAN SMITH'S STATEMENT ACCEPTING THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE AS "UNACCEPTABLE IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT RESPECTS." IT URGED THE CONFERENCE TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL OF THE AFRICAN FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONVENE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE OUTSIDE RHODESIA TO FORM AN INTERIM

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GOVERNMENT, AND TO DETERMINE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE AFRICAN MAJORITY.

MR. CROSLAND SAID THAT HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE
NEC STATEMENT, "I BELIEVE THAT WE NOW HAVE A UNIQUELY
IMPORTANT PRIZE POSSIBLY WITHIN OUR GRASP, THE PRIZE
OF A RAPID BUT PEACEFUL EVOLUTION TO MAJORITY RULE IN
RHODESIA... I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT PROMPTED
MR. SMITH'S STATEMENT LAST FRIDAY. IT WAS NOT THE
PRODUCT OF SOME MIRACULOUS CONVERSION TO LIBERAL VIEWS.
IT WAS A RELUCTANT RESPONSE TO A STEADY CHANGE IN THE
BALANCE OF POWER IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE COLLAPSE OF
PORTUGUESE IMPERIALISM IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA,
THE GROWING STRENGTH OF GUERRILLA FORCES IN ZIMBABWE,
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THE DRIP, DRIP EFFECT OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, AND THE
NEW-FOUND UNITY OF THE FRONT LINE AFRICAN PRESIDENTS...
ON THE OTHER SIDE, THE PRIZE WITHIN OUR GRASP IS A FREE,
PROSPEROUS AND MULTI-RACIAL ZIMBABWE. THAT IS WHY THE
GOVERNMENT, THE NEC AND I HOPE THE CONFERENCE WILL
SHOW OURSELVES UNITED IN OUR DETERMINATION TO PLAY OUR
PART IN BRINGING TO ZIMBABWE A PEACE FIRMLY ROOTED AT
LONG LAST IN BLACK MAJORITY RULE AND SO IN JUSTICE AND
EQUALITY.
END QUOTE

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